

# Eric J. Scarffe

## Curriculum Vitae

Florida International University  
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Miami, FL 33199

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Website: [ericscarffe.com](http://ericscarffe.com)

**AOS:** Philosophy of Law, Political Philosophy, Medical Ethics

**AOC:** Ethics, Human Rights, Philosophy of Science, Feminism

### SELECT EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Florida International University	2020-Present
Instructor, Boston University	2019-2020
Instructor, Yukon College	2016, 2018
Trade Policy Researcher, UNIFOR	2018
Financial Editor, Desjardins Capital markets	2015-2016

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### EDUCATION

PhD, Philosophy, Boston University, Dissertation: "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Approach to International Law." Committee: Rachell Powell (advisor); Hugh Baxter; Allen Buchanan; David Lyons.	2020
Visiting Scholar, University of Arizona	2020
MA, Philosophy, York University	2015
BA Honors with Subsidiary, St. Francis Xavier University	2014

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### PUBLICATIONS

2022. "Dignitary Harms and Abortion Law," *the American Journal of Bioethics* 22(8), pp. 85-87. Doi:10.1080/15265161.2022.2089273
2022. "Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law," *Jus Cogens*. Doi: 10.1007/s42439-022-00063-8
2021. "Legal Positivism and Transnational Law," *Oxford Handbook of Transnational Law*, with M. Giudice.
2019. "Response to commentaries on Powell/Scarffe feature article," *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45(9), p. 597-598, with R. Powell. Doi: 10.1136/medethics-2019-105745.
2019. "Rehabilitating 'Disease': Function, Value, and Objectivity in Medicine," *Philosophy of Science*, 86(5), p. 1-11, with R. Powell.
2019. "Rethinking 'Disease': A Fresh Diagnosis and a New Philosophical Treatment," *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45(9), p. 579-588, with R. Powell. (Featured Article with 4 Replies) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2019-105465>.
2016. "'A New Philosophy for International Law' and Dworkin's Political Realism," *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence*, 29(1). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/cjlj.2016.7>.

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### PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

2022. "[Can the Data Save Us From Ourselves?: Epistemic Uncertainty and Data Driven Policy Making](#)," What to Do About Now. With Katherine Valde.

2. 2022 (Nov). Quest for Peace, Miami Dade College. Panelist on “Healthcare and Human Rights.”
  3. 2022. [“Overturning Roe v. Wade: The Court’s New Jurisprudence of Doubt,”](#) What To Do About Now? (A Political Philosophy Blog).
  4. 2021. Quest for Peace, Miami Dade College. Panelist on “To Defend or Defund the Police.”
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#### **SELECT PRESENTATIONS**

1. 2023 (Jan). “Dignitary Harms, Abortion Law, and A Jurisprudence of Dignity.” North American Society for Social Philosophy.
2. 2022. “A New Concept of Dignity.” South Carolina Annual Research Symposium.
3. 2022. “On Dignity and Abortion.” Wofford College.\*
4. 2022. “Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law.” South Carolina Society for Philosophy.
5. 2022. “Epistemic Uncertainty and Data-Driven Policy.” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
6. 2022. “The Concept of Dignity.” Florida Philosophical Association.
7. 2021. “The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision.” Canadian Philosophical Association.
8. 2021. “Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law.” American Philosophical Association (Central Division).\*
9. 2021. “Impartiality isn’t Impartial: Gender, Race, Law and Science.” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (with Katherine Valde).
10. 2020. “The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision.” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
11. 2020. “A Dignity-Based Account of State Sovereignty: New Tools to Resolve the Paradox.” Poster. American Philosophical Association (Central Division).
12. 2020. “The Paradox of State Sovereignty: A Call for Revision.” Colloquium Paper. American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division).
13. 2019. “New Tools to Resolve the Paradox: A Dignity-Based Account of State Sovereignty,” Northeastern Political Science Association.
14. 2019. “Rethinking the Paradox of State Sovereignty with a Dignity-Based Account of International Law.” Colloquium Paper. Canadian Philosophical Association.

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\* Invited

15. 2019. "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." New York State Political Science Association.
  16. 2019. Three Minute Thesis Competition, Boston University.
  17. 2019. "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
  18. 2019. "Moving Toward a Dignity-Based Account of International Law." Symposium paper. American Philosophical Association (Central Division).
  19. 2018. "Reflecting on a Legacy: Justice Kennedy's Jurisprudence of Dignity." Ethics and Political, Social and Legal Annual Conference.
  20. 2018. "Rehabilitating 'Disease': Function, Value, and Objectivity in Medicine." Philosophy of Science Association.
  21. 2018. "And Now the Why: Bringing Human Rights Under a General Theory of International Law." Colloquium paper. Canadian Jacques Maritain Association (Canadian Philosophical Association meeting).
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#### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

1. [A Paper on Justice Kennedy] (under review)
  2. [A Paper on the Jurisprudence of Dignity] (in prep).
  3. [A Paper on Abortion and Dobbs] (in prep).
  4. [A Paper on the Paradox of State Sovereignty] (drafted).
  5. [A Paper on Impartiality in Science and Law] (in prep).
  6. [A Paper on Normative Dignity] (under review).
  7. [A Paper on Epistemic Uncertainty and Policy Making] (in prep).
  8. [A Paper on Evidence-Based Medicine and Holistic Practices] (in prep).
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#### **SELECT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Doctoral Fellowship, <i>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</i> (C\$60,000)	2018-2020
Dissertation Fellowship, <i>Boston University</i> (US\$11,500)	2020
Best Formal Paper by a Graduate Student, <i>Association for Practical and Professional Ethics</i> (US\$500)	2019
3 Minute Thesis Competition Winner, <i>Boston University</i> (US\$581)	2019
Deans' Fellowship, <i>Boston University</i> (US\$21,500)	2016-2017
Graduate Entrance Scholarship in Philosophy, <i>York University</i>	2014-2015

(C\$6,000)

Graduate Scholarship, *York University*  
(C\$3,000)

2014-2015

Travel Grants

<i>Institute for Humane Studies</i> (US\$750)	2022
<i>Hayek Fund, Institute for Humane Studies</i> (US\$500)	2020
<i>American Philosophical Association</i> (Eastern Division) (US\$300)	2020
<i>American Philosophical Association</i> (Central Division) (US\$300)	2019
<i>Boston University Graduate Student Organization</i> (US\$500)	2019
<i>Boston University Philosophy Department</i> (US\$794)	2019
<i>Boston University Philosophy Department</i> (US\$594)	2018
<i>National Science Foundation</i> (US\$242)	2018

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**COURSES TAUGHT AS AN INSTRUCTOR**

Florida International University

- Philosophy of Law (x3)
- Biomedical Ethics (x3)
- Introduction to Ethics (x5)
- Senior Research Paper (x4)

Boston University

- Philosophy, Law, and Society
- Medical Ethics

Yukon College

- Introduction to Political Theory (x2)

**ONLINE/HYBRID COURSES DEVELOPED**

Florida International University

- Philosophy of Law Submitted for HQ Certification
- Biomedical Ethics HQ Certified
- Introduction to Ethics Submitted for HQ Certification

Yukon College

- Introduction to Political Theory
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**TEACHING CERTIFICATES AND TRAININGS**

Certificates

1. Hybrid Instructor Certification 2022
2. Online Live Certification 2021
3. Fundamentals of Online Teaching 2021

WORKSHOPS

1. What Inclusive Teachers Do Ongoing
  2. Calling in, Not Calling Out 2022
  3. Introduction to Feedback Box 2021
  4. Understanding the QM Rubric 2021
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## SERVICE

### To the University

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Vice-President UFF-FIU   | Ongoing   |
| 2. Bargaining Team Chair UFF-FIU  | Ongoing   |
| 3. Union Senator UFF-FIU  | Ongoing   |
| 4. Leadership, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee Member (UFF)    | Ongoing   |
| 5. FEA Delegate   | Ongoing   |
| 6. Graduate Faculty Status  | Ongoing   |
| 7. Bargaining Team Member UFF-FIU   | 2021-2022 |
| 8. Referee, Boston University Graduate Student Organization Travel Grants | 2019-2020 |
| 9. Organizing Committee, Boston University Graduate Workers Union         | 2019-2020 |

### To the Department

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|---|---------|
| 1. Ignite Rep FIU Philosophy Department                           | Ongoing |
| 2. UCC Assessment Committee – FIU Philosophy Department           | Ongoing |
| 3. STRIDE Certified   | 2021    |
| 4. Giving talks to the Philosophy Club                            | Ongoing |
| I. “On Dignity and Abortion”                                      |         |
| II. “Impartiality isn’t Impartial: Gender, Race, Law and Science” |         |

### To the Profession/Community

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|--|---------|
| 1. Referee: Dialogue; Journal of Medical Ethics; Association for Practical and Professional Ethics                               | Ongoing |
| 2. Session Chair: Philosophy of Science Association; Florida Philosophical Association; South Carolina Philosophical Association | 2022    |
| 3. Judge, Ethics Bowl  | 2022    |
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## DISSERTATION SUMMARY

Since the end of World War II there has been a rapid proliferation of international law and international legal institutions. Once limited to issues in maritime and trade law, today the most recognizable examples of international law govern issues such as human rights, intellectual property, crimes against humanity and armed conflicts. In many ways, this proliferation has been a welcomed development. However, when coupled with international law’s decentralized structure, this rapid proliferation has also posed problems for how we (and in particular judges) identify if, when, and where international law exists. This dissertation puts forward a novel, dignity-based account for how we answer these questions. The upshot of my account is two-fold. First, it explains many features of international law that other theories leave unaccounted for or under-explained. And second, my dignity-based account provides for a mechanism through which the system can continue to be developed and improved.

**LANGUAGES:** French (intermediate reading; beginner speaking)

## REFERENCES

Rachell Powell	Michael Giudice
Professor of Philosophy	Associate Professor of Philosophy
Boston University	York University

powell@bu.edu

Hugh Baxter  
Professor of Law  
Professor of Philosophy  
Boston University  
hbaxter@bu.edu

Allen Buchanan  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of Arizona  
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David Lyons  
Professor of Law Emeritus  
Professor of Philosophy  
Boston University  
dbl@bu.edu

Laurie Shrage  
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Florida International University  
lshrage@fiu.edu